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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE LEGAL ADVISER

May 15, 1957

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
RECEIVED
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SCA

MEMORANDUM

To: SCA - Mr. Scott McLeod

From: L - John M. Raymond JMR

Subject: Passport Case of Anna Louise Strong

While there is some evidence to support a finding that Miss Strong comes within subsection (b), as amplified by Section 51.141 of the Regulations, and subsection (c) of Section 51.135 of the Passport Regulations, this office doubts whether such a finding would be sustained by the courts in view of several elements in the case which militate against such a finding as well as certain other weaknesses. There is no doubt that Miss Strong has tried hard to be of assistance to the Communist movement over a long period of time and has written and spoken much in support of that movement. However, it is doubtful whether she can be said to have engaged in her activities as a result of direction, domination, and control by the Communist Party as required by subsection (b). The record discloses that she has had considerable difficulties in the Soviet Union, once having been expelled for espionage activities. While she might have welcomed direction, domination, or control by the Communists, apparently she never quite succeeded in winning their confidence. In view of these facts and her statement of the purposes of her present travel as being 1) a desire to recover personal property allegedly confiscated by the Soviet authorities; and 2) to travel in various countries as a correspondent for the National Guardian, a publication which, although it has published expressions of pro-Soviet view, does not appear to have been the subject of official cognizance by this Government, a finding that she was going abroad to engage in activities which will advance the Communist movement for the purpose, knowingly and willfully of advancing that movement might well meet resistance in the courts. Such resistance is all the more likely in view of the other weaknesses in the record hereinafter mentioned.

Apart from the question whether Miss Strong technically falls within the scope of the Regulations, this would not appear to be a case in which the Government would be likely to have much success in the courts. Miss Strong is a well-known, if controversial, figure and the Department has issued passports to her for some thirty years with full knowledge of her background. To refuse her a passport because of this background for the first time after she has reached the age of 72 years would undoubtedly be looked upon with some degree of scepticism by the courts. Moreover, as your memorandum suggests, the Department has had this case under consideration for an awful long time, Miss Strong's current application for a passport having been filed almost two years ago.

If, however,

4. Everybody's Committee to Outlaw War was proposed for designation under provisions of Executive Order No. 10450 on December 29, 1954. Notice of contest was filed on January 13, 1955. Statement of Grounds and Interrogatories filed on March 14, 1954. By letter dated May 21, 1955 ECOW refused to answer Government's interrogatories on the grounds that they were violative of the First, Fifth, Ninth and Tenth Amendments, denial of due process, etc. On October 20, 1955, the ECOW was designated for failure to comply with the rules promulgated pursuant to Executive Order No. 10450. (20 F.R. 8163)

Note that with respect to all four organizations that they were afforded the opportunity to contest their designation and failed to exhaust their administrative remedy. The Civil Rights Congress and American Russian Institute were afforded such opportunity when redesignated; The California Emergency Defense Committee and Everybody's Committee to Outlaw War at the time of proposed designation. (See copy of Rules attached)

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If, however, despite the above observations, you still feel that a final letter of refusal should be sent to Miss Strong, I would suggest that the letter be considerably shortened. Seven of the nine pages of the PPT draft are devoted to excerpts from Miss Strong's writings. Inclusion of so much of this material in the letter might well give the impression that the Department's principal reason in refusing her a passport is because it disagrees with what she has written and is fearful of what she will write upon her return from her projected trip. Some of the quoted material seems quite innocuous and expresses views which have undoubtedly been held by persons other than Communists. I think it would be best to eliminate all reference to her writings and confine ourselves to references to her expressed belief that she was a member of the Communist Party at some time in the past and her association with five organizations on the Attorney General's list, together with the miscellaneous activities listed on page 8.

It also seems unnecessary to base the refusal upon "evidence which cannot be disclosed because of considerations of the national security of the United States" in the case of a person whose activities over a long period of time have been as open and notorious as Miss Strong's.

L:L/EUR:JKeegan:jcm:es

February 27, 1958

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : PPT - Frances G. Knight DATE: JAN 2 1958

FROM : SY - Dennis A. Flinn DAF JAN 31 1958

SUBJECT: Anna Louise Strong

Reference is made to our memorandum dated November 29, 1955 which furnished a review of pertinent information relative to the above captioned passport applicant and which transmitted her SY file to your office.

As a result of a record check, the security files of the Civil Service Commission were reviewed and found to contain the following additional information concerning the captioned subject.

The Security file maintained by Civil Service Commission contains a report dated June 21, 1942, by Investigator [redacted], which contains the results of an investigation conducted concerning alleged Communistic activities at Reed College, Portland, Oregon. This report indicates that Anna Louise Strong was a speaker before the student body who personally admitted she was an accredited agent of the Communist International. The report reflects that her appearance at Reed College had been almost an annual affair.

The report also indicates that the outstanding organization which was permitted to flourish at Reed College was the Reed College Branch of the Young Communist League, which is alleged to have at one time claimed membership of approximately 20 per cent of the college enrollment.

Additional information contained in CSC records concerning Anna Louise Strong is reflected in the attached DI-34 (consisting of 3 pages).

The foregoing is furnished for informational purposes and for association with subject's SY file so that it may be returned to this office when her file has served your purposes.

Attachment:
DI-34 (three pages)

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